

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content data reproduction apparatus for reproducing content data, said content data reproduction apparatus comprising:

transmission means for transmitting to a registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests [[the]] said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered;

reception means for receiving authentication result information from said registration confirmation apparatus ~~a registration confirmation signal which informs that~~ indicates whether said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered;

storage means for storing content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, said content data including a plurality of content data items each including attribute information indicating whether said content data items are prohibited from being stored ~~in a location~~ external to said content data reproduction apparatus;

setting means for setting said attribute information of said plurality of content data items, based on received sale notification signals ~~plurality of content data items stored in said storage means to reproducible when said reception means receives said registration confirmation signal and after said content data is acquired and stored by the storage means;~~
and

reproduction means for

checking whether said authentication result information indicates that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered in response to reproducing one of said plurality of content data items when a reproduction command for [[the]] one of said plurality of content data items [[is]]

input via an input means ~~while said plurality of content data items are being set to~~
~~reproducible by said setting means, and,~~

when said authentication result information indicates that said content data
reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has not been registered, checking said
attribute information of said one of said plurality of content data items and
reproducing said one of said plurality of content data items when said attribute
information of said one of said plurality of content data items indicates that external
storage of said one of said plurality of content data items is allowed.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The content data reproduction apparatus according to
claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

transmission means for transmitting ~~when an operation to purchase said content data~~
~~which is associated with attribute information informing that said content data is prohibited~~
~~from being stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus is~~
~~performed, said content data reproduction apparatus transmits to a content data sales~~
~~apparatus a purchase notification signal~~ to a content data sales apparatus which notifies said
content data sales apparatus of an intention to purchase at least one of said plurality of
content data items, wherein,

~~and then~~ when receiving from said content data sales apparatus a sale notification
signal which notifies said content data reproduction apparatus that a sale of said at least one
of said plurality of content data items is completed, said ~~content data reproduction apparatus~~
~~changes~~ setting means sets said attribute information of said at least one of said plurality of
content data items to indicate ~~such that said attribute information informs~~ that said at least
one of said plurality of content data items is allowed to be stored ~~in the location~~ external to
said content data reproduction apparatus.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said attribute information ~~informing that~~ of each of said plurality of content data items indicates whether is allowed to be stored in the location external to said a content data item of said plurality of content data items is allowed to be stored ~~reproduction apparatus shows permission of outputting said content data to the location~~ external to said content data reproduction apparatus while said content data item remains stored in said storage means as if said content data is lent out, or permission of outputting that said content data item is allowed to be stored to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus ~~as well as deleting and that said content data item is to be deleted~~ from said storage means.

Claim 4 (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said transmission means transmits said confirmation request signal to said registration confirmation apparatus each time when said content data reproduction apparatus is powered on.

Claim 5 (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

readout means for reading out said content data from a storage medium, wherein said storage means stores said content data read by said readout means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said content data provided from said content data provision apparatus ~~is associated with~~ includes attribute information ~~informing~~ indicating that said content data is prohibited from being stored ~~output to the location~~ external to said content data reproduction apparatus.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

output means for outputting at least one of said plurality of content data items to ~~[[the]]~~ a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus; and

output control means for controlling said output means such that said at least one of said plurality of content data items is not output when ~~[[the]]~~ said attribute information of said at least one of said plurality of content data items indicates that ~~informs that the~~ ~~outputting of said content data~~ external storage is prohibited.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A registration confirmation apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving from a content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus configured to store and reproduce content data including a plurality of content data items;

first storage means for storing apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user thereof, along with payment status information showing a payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user;

determination means for checking said first storage means based on ~~[[said]]~~ received apparatus identification information or ~~[[said]]~~ received user identification information

~~shown by the~~ included in said received confirmation request signal, to produce a
determination result indicating ~~determine~~ whether or not said content data reproduction
apparatus or said user thereof has been properly charged payment; and

transmission means for transmitting authentication result information to said content
data reproduction apparatus ~~a registration confirmation signal which informs that~~ indicating
that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered and that
[[a]] said plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus
~~may be set to a reproducible state~~ are reproducible, or that said content data reproduction
apparatus or said user thereof has not been registered and that said plurality of content data
items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus are not reproducible, in response to
based on the determination result of said determination means.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The registration confirmation apparatus according to
claim 8, further comprising:

second storage means for storing content data; and

content data transmission means for transmitting said content data stored in said
second storage means to said content data reproduction apparatus ~~said content data stored in~~
~~said second storage means~~, in response to a request from said content data reproduction
apparatus.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The registration confirmation apparatus according to
claim 9, wherein

said content data transmitted ~~transmission means transmits~~ to said content data
reproduction apparatus includes attribute information indicating that said content data ~~which~~

is prohibited from being stored ~~[[from]]~~ external to said content data reproduction apparatus ~~to a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A content data reproduction method of a content data reproduction apparatus for reproducing content data, said content data reproduction method comprising:

transmitting to a registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests ~~[[the]]~~ said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered;

receiving authentication result information from said registration confirmation apparatus ~~a registration confirmation signal~~ which ~~informs that~~ indicates whether said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered;

storing in a storage means content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, said content data including a plurality of content data items each including attribute information indicating whether said content data items are prohibited from being stored in a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus;

setting said attribute information based on received sale notification signals ~~plurality of content data items stored in said storage means to reproducible when said registration confirmation signal is received from said registration confirmation apparatus and after said content data is acquired and stored by said storage means; [[and]]~~

checking whether said authentication result information indicates that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered in response to reproducing one of said plurality of content data items when a reproduction command for [[the]] one of said plurality of content data items [[is]] input via an input means while said plurality of content data items are being set to reproducible; and,

when said authentication result information indicates that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has not been registered, checking said attribute information of said one of said plurality of content data items and reproducing said one of said plurality of content data items when said attribute information of said one of said plurality of content data items indicates that external storage of said one of said plurality of content data items is allowed.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A registration confirmation method of a registration confirmation apparatus, said registration confirmation method comprising:

receiving from a content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus configured to store and reproduce content data including a plurality of content data items;

determining whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been properly charged by checking a storage means based on received apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user thereof included in [[the]] said received confirmation request signal to produce a determination result, said storage means storing [[said]] apparatus identification information or [[said]] user identification information along with payment status information showing a payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof; and

transmitting authentication result information to said content data reproduction apparatus ~~a registration confirmation signal which informs that~~ indicating that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered and that [[a]] said

plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus ~~may be set to a reproducible state~~ are reproducible, or that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has not been registered and that said plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus are not reproducible, ~~in response to~~ based on the determination result.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium including storing computer executable instructions thereon that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method ~~[[on]]~~ of a content data reproduction apparatus, comprising:

transmitting to registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests ~~[[the]]~~ said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered;

receiving authenticated result information from said registration confirmation apparatus ~~a registration confirmation signal~~ which ~~informs that~~ indicates whether said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered;

storing in a storage means content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, said content data including a plurality of content data items each including attribute information indicating whether said content data items are prohibited from being stored in a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus;

setting said attribute information based on received sale notification signals ~~plurality of content data items stored in said storage means to reproducible when said registration confirmation signal is received from said registration confirmation apparatus and after said content data is acquired; [[and]]~~

checking whether said authentication result information indicates that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered in response to reproducing one of said plurality of content data items when a reproduction command for [[the]] one of said plurality of content data items [[is]] input via an input means while said plurality of content data items are being set to reproducible; and,

when said authentication result information indicates that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has not been registered, checking said attribute information of said one of said plurality of content data items and reproducing said one of said plurality of content data items when said attribute information of said one of said plurality of content data items indicates that external storage of said one of said plurality of content data items is allowed.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium including storing computer executable instructions thereon that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method of a registration confirmation apparatus, comprising:

receiving from a content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus configured to store and reproduce ~~capable of reproducing~~ content data including a plurality of content data items;

determining whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been properly charged by checking a storage means based on received apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user thereof included in [[the]] said received

confirmation request signal to produce a determination result, said storage means storing [[said]] apparatus identification information or [[said]] user identification information along with payment status information showing payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof; and

transmitting authentication result information to said content data reproduction apparatus ~~a registration confirmation signal which informs that~~ indicating that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered and that [[a]] said plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus ~~may be set to a reproducible state~~ are reproducible, or that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has not been registered and that said plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus are not reproducible, in response to based on the determination result.